

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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13. PREPARED BY: HARRY F. LOWMAN, JR, Col, GS Defense Attache  
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## 15. SUMMARY:

(C) This report forwards information on the attitudes of Brig Gen Jose Ramon CALDERON Molano, Commander of the Colombian Air Force, toward the U.S. with regard to the purchase of Mirage planes. He stated that COLOMBIA bought the planes from FRANCE, rather than from the U.S., partly because he was mistreated during his tour as attache in the U.S.

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1. (U) On 2 Feb 71, [REDACTED] a small cocktail party in the home of LTC and Mrs. John ANDERSON, IAGS Chief for COLOMBIA. Col and Mrs. ANDERSON invited a few guests, who had been present at a reception held in honor of the visiting congressional delegation from the UNITED STATES, to allow Congressman Don CLAUSEN, Republican, Crescent City, California, to see the inside of the American community in Bogota. Present were the ANDERSONS, Rep. CLAUSEN, General Jose R. CALDERON Molano (Commander of Colombian Air Force) and Mrs. CALDERON, Mr. and Mrs. James A. THERRIEN (Executive Vice-President of the Banco del Comercio--Chase Manhattan), one other couple from COLOMBIA who was introduced as the Chief of Colombian Public Relations, and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald SNYDER.

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REPLACES DA FORM 1045, 1 AUG 60,  
OPNAV FORM 3820 (Rev 10-61),  
AF FORM 112, JUL 61, WHICH MAY BE  
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ORIGINATOR

USDAO Bogota, COLOMBIA

2. (C) As the evening wore on, the talk turned to the development of backward countries. Representative CLAUSEN had been discussing the subject at length with Mrs. THERRIEN, who is Swedish. At one point in the conversation General CALDERON interrupted by stating that if the congressman really wanted to know how the U.S. could help, the general would tell him. CALDERON cited U.S. participation in the current coffee negotiations as being an example of how the U.S. was going astray. He also stated that the closing of markets in the U.S. to Colombian exports was another way the U.S. was making a mistake. At this point, CALDERON, who had been drinking heavily, shifted from English to Spanish and source interpreted.

3. (C) The conversation got confused, but CALDERON went on to say, in general terms blaming the Congress of the UNITED STATES and by implication, Rep. CLAUSEN, that one of the reasons COLOMBIA had purchased French Mirage Jet Fighters was that he, CALDERON, had been treated badly in the U.S. when he was assigned as attache in Washington. CALDERON used the jet argument to buttress his point of view that the U.S. couldn't care less for second-rate powers. He then stated that if the U.S. didn't start changing this policy, COLOMBIA, as so many other Latin nations were doing, would be forced to turn elsewhere, anywhere, to get the help they needed. (Source took this to be a veiled threat that COLOMBIA would turn to the Communist block if need be to get help she needed.)

4. (C) Congressman CLAUSEN pursued the subject of the Mirage trying to pin CALDERON to specifics. CALDERON stated that he had tried to get an appointment with General RYAN (he called him the "Commander of the UNITED STATES Air Forces"). CALDERON intimated that it would have taken 3 months for the appointment to be arranged and that further discussions on the subject would have delayed another 9 months, making the total preliminary discussion on the jet deal last about a year. These events were supposed to have taken place in 1969. CLAUSEN replied that he certainly was interested in what seemed to be a serious error on the part of General RYAN and that if CALDERON would document his charges with dates, as nearly as he could remember them, CLAUSEN would personally "pin RYAN's hide to the wall." CALDERON said that he finally just gave up in disgust and that he personally went out and bought the Mirages. CALDERON promised CLAUSEN a personal letter on the subject.

5. (U) At this point, the THERRIEN's grabbed the conversation trying to point out to the Representative the error of the ways of the UNITED STATES. THERRIEN used strong arguments based on economic theory, and his wife jumped in with her own ideas. The CALDERON's left with Mrs. CALDERON generally agreeing with everything her husband said as if a personal affront had been done her on the U.S. handling of the jet deal. The CALDERON's did not appear to have been affronted during the conversation itself since they were strongly supported by the THERRIEN's.

6. (C) [redacted] the THERRIEN's finally extricated themselves. He told me that he felt CALDERON's statements were about "fifty percent bull" but that he was interested.

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